

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-21 and 23, 24, 26 and 27 are pending herein. Claims 22 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 17, 18, 21, 23 and 24 have been amended to depend from claims 16, 17, 20, 20 and 21, respectively. New claims 26 and 27 have been added and each correspond to claim 14 and depend from claims 12 and 13, respectively.

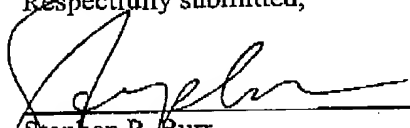
In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Group V, which is believed to include claims 16-19. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement since the subject matter of claims 11-21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 is sufficiently related that a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the elected claims would necessarily encompass a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the non-elected claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is clearly stated that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicants and improper duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

4/02/04
Date


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